Amendments to the Claims

Please amend claims 1 and 3-4, without prejudice.

Please add new claims 8-20.

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A computerized method ~~for managing router metadata, the method~~ comprising:

creating a metadata file, said metadata file defining objects representative of a configuration of components of [[in]] a router;

reading the metadata file;

converting the metadata file into an object model having at least one object; and

configuring the router by loading the objects onto the router.

2. (Original) The computerized method of claim 1, wherein loading the objects onto the router loads the objects into an SNMP (Simple Network Management Protocol) MIB (Management Information Base).

3. (Currently Amended) The computerized method of claim 1, wherein the metadata file comprises an American Standard Code for Information Interchange (ASCII) formatted file.

4. (Currently Amended) The computerized method of claim 1, wherein converting the metadata file includes creating a hash table of ~~attributes~~ attribute names and attribute values from the metadata file.

5. (Previously Presented) The computerized method of claim 1, wherein converting the metadata file comprises converting a required subset of the metadata into an object model.

6. (Previously Presented) The computerized method of claim 1, further comprising:

comparing by the router the objects of the object model to a runtime object model;

updating the runtime object model with differences identified by the comparison.

7. (Previously Presented) The computerized method of claim 1, further comprising:

reading a runtime object model from the router;

comparing the runtime object model to metadata in the metadata file; and

updating the metadata file with differences identified by the comparison.

8. (New) A method comprising:

defining a plurality of objects that represent components of a network device by providing, in one or more metadata files accessible by a plurality of applications, meta information regarding the plurality of objects, including descriptions of the plurality of objects, configuration information associated with each of the plurality of objects and information regarding relationships among the plurality of objects in the form of network component class descriptions; and

configuring a network device based on the meta information by reading the meta information, converting the meta information into a meta runtime object model including the plurality of objects configured in accordance with the configuration information and loading the plurality of objects onto the network device.

9. (New) The method of claim 8, wherein said configuring a network device based on the meta information comprises restoring the network device to an original configuration.

10. (New) The method of claim 8, further comprising updating a configuration of the network device based on the meta information by

responsive to an update to the one or more metadata files, reading the meta information from the one or more metadata files;

converting the meta information into the meta runtime object model;

comparing objects of a current network device runtime object model to the

meta runtime object model;

updating the network device runtime object model to account for

differences identified by said comparing.

11. (New) The method of claim 8, further comprising updating the one or more

metadata files to reflect a current configuration of the network device by

identifying objects of a current network device runtime object model;

reading the meta information from the one or more metadata files;

converting the meta information into the meta runtime object model;

comparing the objects of the current network device runtime object model

to the meta runtime object model;

updating appropriate files of the one or more metadata files to account for

differences identified by said comparing.

12. (New) The method of claim 8, wherein said loading the plurality of objects onto

the network device comprises loading the plurality of objects into a Simple

Network Management Protocol (SNMP) Management Information Base (MIB).

13. (New) The method of claim 8, wherein the one or more metadata files comprise

American Standard Code for Information Interchange (ASCII) formatted files.

14. (New) The method of claim 8, wherein converting the meta information into a

meta runtime object model comprises creating a hash table of attribute names and

attribute values from the one or more metadata files.

15. (New) The method of claim 8, wherein converting the meta information into a

meta runtime object model comprises converting only a required subset of the

meta information into the meta runtime object.

16. (New) The method of claim 10, wherein said updating the network device runtime object model to account for differences comprises disregarding unchanged meta information.

17. (New) A system comprising:

a meta information means for defining meta information in one or more metadata files regarding a plurality of objects that represent components of a network device in the form of network component class descriptions, the network component class descriptions including descriptions of the plurality of objects, configuration information associated with each of the plurality of objects and information regarding relationships among the plurality of objects; and

a network device configuration means, responsive to the meta information means, for configuring a network device based on the meta information by reading the meta information, converting the meta information into a meta runtime object model including the plurality of objects configured in accordance with the configuration information and loading the plurality of objects onto the network device.

18. (New) The system of claim 17, wherein the network device configuration means restores the network device to an original configuration based on the meta information.

19. (New) The system of claim 17, wherein the network device configuration means if further configured to update a configuration of the network device based on the meta information by

responsive to the meta information means, reading the meta information from the one or more metadata files;

converting the meta information into the meta runtime object model;

comparing objects of a current network device runtime object model to the meta runtime object model;

updating the network device runtime object model to account for differences identified by said comparing.

20.   (New) The system of claim 17, wherein the network device configuration means is further configured to update the one or more metadata files to reflect a current configuration of the network device by

identifying objects of a current network device runtime object model;

reading the meta information from the one or more metadata files;

converting the meta information into the meta runtime object model;

comparing the objects of the current network device runtime object model to the meta runtime object model; and

updating appropriate files of the one or more metadata files to account for differences identified by said comparing.